

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the reinforcement member comprises wood.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein the reinforcement member further comprises plastic.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 11-17. Claims 6 and 14 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 5, 8-10 and 18-20 are withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,419,672 to Poe. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the bases of the rejections. However, claim 1 has been amended. The additional limitations in claim 1 now include retaining pieces connected to looped elasticized cords which are removably attached to the holding elements. Poe does not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations in claim 1 as amended. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended, and each of the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has also been amended to reflect that the item is hung on a looped elasticized cord which is attached to a retaining piece retained in an aperture of the slidable member. Again, Poe does not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations in claim 15 as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 as amended, and each

of the claims that depend therefrom, including claims 16-17, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 1,132,190 to Kohout. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the bases of the rejections. However, claim 11 has been amended, as has claim 15 as described above. Claim 11 is amended to include that the slidable member has apertures within integral notches, and that retaining pieces connected to looped elasticized cords are removably connected to the apertures, with the elasticized cords extending through the integral notches. Kohout does not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations present in claims 11 or 15 as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 15, and each of the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 16 and 17 as unpatentable over Kohout in view of Hakeem (US Patent No. 5,076,442). However, the combination of Kohout in view of Hakeem also fails to disclose all of the limitations now recited in claims 11 and 15 from which those claims depend, and thus applicant respectfully submits that those claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohout in view of Bennett, US Patent No. 4,260,063, and further in view of Van Iperen, US Patent No. 4,538,738. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's basis for rejection of claim 14. Nonetheless, claim 14 is canceled by this Amendment and applicant reserves to the right to present claim 14 in a continuation application.

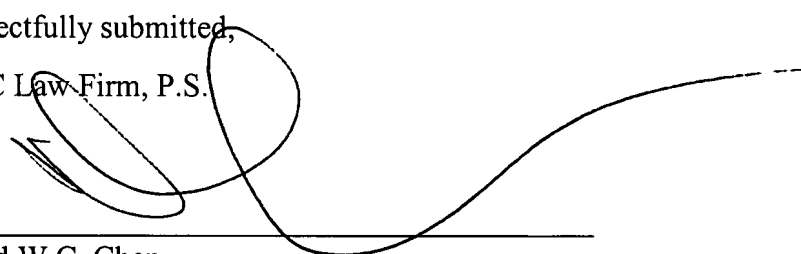
The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohout in view of Bennett, US Patent No. 4,260,063, in view of Van

Iperreen, US Patent No. 4,538,738, and further in view of Leeper, US Patent No. 2,846,079. However, even with the additional reference Leeper, the combined references listed above do not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations of base claim 1, as amended, from which each of these claims depend.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a good faith effort to address all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner in the most recent Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that this application and all claims currently pending are in condition for allowance, and that applicant is entitled to consideration of the claims to additional species which depend from any allowable generic claims. If questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,
DWC Law Firm, P.S.

By 
David W.C. Chen
Registration No. 51375
Tel: (206) 583-2609

Enclosures:

Return receipt postcard
Transmittal Form
Fee Transmittal Form and a copy
Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)
Form 122
Check # in the amount of \$510

DWC Law Firm, P.S.
P.O. Box 3041
Seattle WA 98114-3041
Phone: (206) 583-2609
Fax: (206) 583-2344